

Nebraska Intergovernmental Data Communications Advisory Council (NIDCAC)

Notes from the January 21, 2005 NIDCAC Meeting

Time: **Friday, January 21, 2005: 9:00 am - Noon**
Place: Conference Room
Fifth Floor, Executive Office Building
521 So 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Call to order and notice of meeting publication

Chairman Ron Bowmaster called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were: Ron Bowmaster, Bob Shanahan, Judy Jobman, Doug Thomas, Mahendra Bansal, Michael Calvert, Jayne Scofield, Sandy Zoubeck, William Ptacek, Steve Henderson, Gordon Adams, and Clayton Erickson. Absent: Frank Goodroe.

The public meeting notice was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on January 14, 2005.

Mr. Clayton Erickson, Mayor of Central City, was introduced as a newly appointed representative of municipal government.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION	
State of Nebraska LANCASTER COUNTY, } ss.	
<small>NOTICE OF PUBLICATION I, the undersigned, being first duly sworn, depose and say that I am the Clerk of the Lincoln Journal Star, legal newspaper printed, published and having a general circulation in the County of Lancaster and State of Nebraska, and that the attached public notice was published in said newspaper on the 14th day of January, A.D. 2005, and thereafter on the 15th day of January, A.D. 2005, and that said newspaper is the legal newspaper under the statutes of the State of Nebraska. The above facts are within my personal knowledge and are further verified by my personal inspection of each copy of each of said papers.</small>	
Subscribed to my presence and heard me depose this day of January, 2005.	<i>Ron Bowmaster</i> Notary Public
Printed at Lancaster, Nebraska	

Approval of Minutes of November 5, 2004 Meeting

Mr. Thomas corrected the minutes from the November 5, 2004 meeting by correcting the reference to VoIP from 802.15 to 802.16. The corrected notes were adopted by voice vote.

NIDCAC: Project Initiative Review

Mr. Bowmaster reviewed the following eight strategic initiatives adopted by the NITC, and their relevance to the role and mission of NIDCAC.

Network Nebraska
Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network
Statewide Synchronous Video Network
eLearning
Community IT Planning and Development
Enterprise Architecture,
eGovernment, and
Security and Business Resumption.

At the November 5, 2004 meeting, the committee expressed interest in the topics of

security, authorization, business portals, and how local governments can take advantage of state initiatives to conduct business over the Internet. To address this interest, Mr. Steve Hartman of IMServices and Mr. Rod Armstrong of Nebraska@Online were invited to address the committee.

Review of NITC Sponsored Initiatives

State Initiatives on Security, Authorization, and Portal Services¹

Mr. Steve Hartman, IMS, presented the State of Nebraska's initiative to verify the identity both public and private individuals who access the state network to conduct business with the State of Nebraska, and to ensure that each individual is authorized to perform a task that Nebraska's computing systems make available. This combination of identification and authorization has come to be known as the Nebraska Directory Services Project. Mr. Hartman explained that the vision of the project is to: "Implement single sign on using role based authentication and authorization for electronic government (e-Government) to provide for a cost effective, efficient delivery of services, while maintaining necessary security and confidentiality of non-public information through an industry standard enterprise directory."

Security Discussion

Mr. Hartman presented an overview of the Directory Services Project.² He explained that the project stems from an NITC standard governing identify and access management for Nebraska state agencies. This standard stipulates that: "All state government web applications that require authentication and authorization of users will utilize the enterprise LDAP directory, known as Nebraska Directory Services." The purpose of this standard is "to provide an enterprise solution for identity and access management capabilities to reduce security administration costs, ensure regulatory compliance, and increase operation efficiency and effectiveness."

There are three components of this state initiative. The first is security, defined as: "The process to support information security by reducing exposure to security problems when providing remote access to computer networks, allowing connections to the Internet, using the Internet or an Intranet to deliver information or services, and connecting networks." Mr. Hartman presented views of Nebraska's previous and current network infrastructure.

Authentication Discussion

The second component is authentication, defined as "The process of uniquely identifying an individual." The individual may be a public employee, a private business entity, or a citizen, each seeking to use Nebraska's

¹ A portal is software that presents customized information and transactions to end users through a Web browser. An enterprise portal gives end users access to multiple types of information and applications through a standard interface.

² See Attachment for Nebraska Directory Services Power Point presentation.

Internet services to make an inquiry about or conduct business with a state agency. Mr. Hartman presented the methods by which the Nebraska Directory Services Project can authenticate individuals.

Authorization Discussion

The third component of the standard is authorization, defined as: "The process of giving individuals access to system objects based on their identity which allows them to add, update, delete or view information for a web application." While authentication uniquely identifies an individual, authorization allows that individual to perform actions that sponsoring state agencies have authorized that individual to perform. Authorization grants access rights to Nebraska's computing applications. Mr. Hartman presented the development requirements necessary to implement directory and application integration.

Following Mr. Hartman's presentation, Ron explained that state security, authentication, and authorization efforts extend not only to state government network and computing systems, but also to those supported by the state's wide area networks. Because the wide area network is one of the computing services that reside behind the state's firewall, access to local computing applications can be offered through this architecture.

e-Business and Portal Services

Mr. Rod Armstrong, General Manager of Nebrask@ Online, presented Nebraska's public Internet portal, www.state.ne.us, to state computing services. Mr. Armstrong noted that Nebraska's web access to state services originally was organized by agency, requiring a user to have familiarity with state agencies that provided Internet services. This approach required a user to access the web page of a particular state agency in order to conduct their business with the state. Each agency maintained its own website, presenting the user with a completely different look and feel.

Mr. Armstrong explained that Nebrask@ Online is now on its third iteration of a service oriented web portal. This service approach is intended to present to the user a unified presentation of state government services, regardless of the agency that provides the service. State services are now being bundled and presented in a topical manner. The current iteration bundles services for business, for citizens, for education and for employees, as well as by topics such as Ag and Natural Resources, Facts about Nebraska, Health and Safety, Moving to Nebraska, Visiting Nebraska, and Government. To obtain a more unified presentation, state agency web sites will be designed with a single banner and footer on each web page.



Mr. Armstrong stated that the number of services that are being presented over the Internet is growing to such an extent that Nebrask@ Online will soon release its fourth iteration of the state portal. The new portal will allow additional services to be presented to the user. Mr. Armstrong stressed that the portal approach to services is based on the premise that users who do business with multiple state agencies, or individuals who are simply making inquiries about the state, do not care how state agencies are structured. Rather, they are interested in services that are provided by the state. Mr. Shanahan noted that businesses that use the Internet to interact with the Workers Compensation systems also interact with the tax systems of the Department of Revenue. Each agency requires userids and passwords to gain access to their system, thus putting the burden on the user to maintain and retain multiple user accounts and passwords. The vision of single sign on presented by Mr. Hartman would enable a user to access multiple agencies without the burden of multiple accounts.

Mr. Armstrong demonstrated Nebrask@ Online's support for local governments. From the state web page, links are provided to municipal, county, and natural resource districts as well as the League of Nebraska Municipalities and the County Officials Association. Additional links are provided to the seventy-five counties that maintain websites. Nebrask@ Online provided templates and hosts county websites. Although most county websites provide static information, several counties now provide services directly through the Internet. The Lincoln/Lancaster system is an exemplary system.

Mr. Armstrong explained that Nebrask@ Online supports credit card transactions and will soon announce an agreement with the State Treasurer to support electronic checks.

2004-2005 NIDCC Project Initiatives

Following the presentations by Mr. Hartman and Mr. Armstrong, the council discussed potential project initiatives. Mr. Bowmaster explained that the materials presented during the meeting are based on state standards, and are applicable only to state government. The material presented during the meeting does not imply that these standards will be imposed on local governments, only that these services present an opportunity for local governments to use already existing security, authentication and authorization systems to conduct local business. The service portals being developed for state government services could be used to deliver local business services as well.

Mr. Bowmaster explained that the role of NIDCAC is develop recommendations to improve the efficiency of data exchanges between state and local government, and that NIDCAC is the only forum where local governments can initiate technology projects that represent local government concerns.

Next Meeting: April 22, 2005

The next regularly scheduled NIDCAC meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2005. With the concurrence of the council, the meeting will address two topics. The first topic will be the GIS land records modernization effort currently being considered by the legislature. The second topic will focus on the several juvenile system improvement initiatives currently underway.

Adjourn

On a motion of the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Attachment:

Nebraska Directory Services Project presentation